

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2991, the “Countering Human Trafficking Act of 2021,” which would make the Center for Countering Human Trafficking permanent and require other changes to strengthen the Center’s contributions to the fight against human trafficking.

Human trafficking is one of the greatest threats to human rights in the United States. In 2020, 11,193 instances of potential human trafficking were reported to the United States National Human Trafficking Hotline with at least 70 percent of those instances involving sex trafficking.

I will continue to advance and support legislation, like the bill before us today, as well as programming aimed at preventing human trafficking and protecting victims and survivors—as an estimated 25 percent of human trafficking victims are reportedly in my home state of Texas at any given time—many of whom are minors.

At least 5,359 of trafficking victims and survivors identified through the hotline in 2019 were under the age of 18, and in 2021, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received more than 17,200 reports of suspected child sex trafficking.

That is why I introduced the H.R. 7566 Stop Human Trafficking in School Zones Act, also known as the No Trafficking Zones Act, to ensure that our nation’s schools are a safe haven for students. I hope the Senate will take up and pass my bill so that we may get it to the president’s desk before this Congress ends.

While traffickers seek out vulnerable minors and adults—no person is truly safe from the schemes of charismatic traffickers bent on exploiting and destroying lives.

Sadly, these statistics were only made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic—during which traffickers took advantage of individuals and communities in crisis—further increasing the number of people at risk of falling victim to human trafficking.

It is for all of these reasons that we must help maintain the momentum gained by the Center for Countering Human Trafficking in recent years.

The Center is responsible for integrating the efforts of 16 different offices and components of the Department of Homeland Security into a cohesive strategy that supports law enforcement investigations and training, shields and supports victims, develops and enhances prevention strategies, and engages with the public.

S. 2991 is a straightforward, bipartisan bill that would make the Center permanent while promoting stability and modernization and encouraging continued collaboration, growth, and innovation.

I thank Senator GARY PETERS and JOHN KATKO for their leadership on this bill and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, S. 2991 would not only provide permanency, increased coordination, and modernization to the Center for Countering Human Trafficking and the Department of Homeland Security, this bill would also promote growth within the center and bolster victim-centered counter human trafficking efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, every year, there are thousands of people who are victims of human trafficking in America.

Over the past two decades, the number of trafficking victims has steadily and disturbingly increased.

Human traffickers subject their victims to forced labor, debt bondage, or sexual exploitation by using violence, manipulation, or false promises.

This criminal activity are not just human rights abuses; they compromise national and economic security and harm the well-being of communities everywhere.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) leads the Federal Government’s efforts to identify, disrupt, and dismantle complex domestic and cross-border human trafficking organizations.

Given that multiple DHS components are involved in this effort, it is important that there be standing and robust coordination mechanisms to ensure the Department is working to combat this threat effectively and efficiently.

That is why I support passage of the “Countering Human Trafficking Act of 2021,” the Senate version of legislation introduced by my friend and the ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security, Representative JOHN KATKO, and which I am a proud original cosponsor.

This legislation codifies DHS’s Center for Countering Human Trafficking, a cross-component operations center that brings together 16 DHS agencies and offices to ensure they are working collaboratively.

As Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I have long supported legislative efforts to improve the capabilities of U.S. law enforcement to disrupt and dismantle these dangerous human trafficking organizations.

Furthermore, Ranking Member KATKO and I led an effort last year to include important anti-human trafficking legislation in the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022.”

Known as the “DHS Blue Campaign Enhancement Act,” this legislation improved DHS’s communication and education materials on human trafficking awareness and prevention.

I am confident that S. 2991 will build upon the success of the Blue Campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to come together to stand against the exploitation of the most vulnerable among us and join me in supporting S. 2991.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2991.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRISON CAMERA REFORM ACT OF 2021

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S.

2899) to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to address deficiencies and make necessary upgrades to the security camera and radio systems of the Bureau of Prisons to ensure the health and safety of employees and inmates.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2899

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Prison Camera Reform Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Bureau of Prisons has 122 institutions located throughout the United States. The Bureau of Prisons employs nearly 38,000 employees and is responsible for more than 150,000 Federal inmates.

(2) Video footage from security camera systems and reliable communication over radio systems within Bureau of Prisons institutions are essential to protecting the health and safety of Bureau of Prisons employees and Federal inmates.

(3) Based on the experience of Bureau of Prisons correctional staff, the noticeable presence of functioning security cameras serves as an effective deterrent to criminal behavior and misconduct.

(4) Well-documented deficiencies of camera systems at Bureau of Prisons’ facilities have hindered investigators’ ability to substantiate allegations of serious misconduct by staff and inmates, including sexual and physical assaults, medical neglect, and introduction of contraband.

(5) In a 2016 report, the Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Justice determined that “deficiencies within the BOP’s security camera system have affected the OIG’s ability to secure prosecutions of staff and inmates in BOP contraband introduction cases, and these same problems adversely impact the availability of critical evidence to support administrative or disciplinary action against staff and inmates”.

(6) Shortcomings in the land-mobile radio systems at Bureau of Prison facilities institutions impede the communication abilities of staff, slowing or preventing the response of correctional officers during an emergency or threat of attack, and jeopardizing the safety of both staff and Federal inmates.

SEC. 3. REQUIRED PLAN FOR REFORM OF BOP SECURITY CAMERA AND RADIO COVERAGE AND CAPABILITIES.

(a) PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall—

(1) evaluate the security camera, land-mobile radio (referred to in this Act as “LMR”), and public address (referred to in this Act as “PA”) systems in use by the Bureau of Prisons as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a plan for ensuring that all Bureau of Prisons correctional facilities have the security camera, LMR, and PA system coverage and capabilities necessary to—

(A) ensure the health and safety of staff and Federal inmates; and

(B) ensure the documentation and accessibility of video evidence that may pertain to misconduct by staff or inmates, negligent or abusive treatment of inmates, or criminal activity within correctional facilities.

(b) CONTENTS.—The plan required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify and include plans to address any deficiencies in the security camera system in use at Bureau of Prisons correctional facilities, including those related to—

- (A) an insufficient number of cameras;
- (B) inoperable or malfunctioning cameras;
- (C) blind spots;
- (D) poor quality video; and
- (E) any other deficits in the security camera system;

(2) identify and include plans to adopt and maintain any security camera system upgrades needed to achieve the purposes described in subsection (a), including—

(A) conversion of all analog cameras to digital surveillance systems, with corresponding infrastructure and equipment upgrade requirements;

(B) upgrades to ensure the secure storage, logging, preservation, and accessibility of recordings such that the recordings are available to investigators or Courts at such time as may be reasonably required; and

(C) additional enterprise-wide camera system capabilities needed to enhance the safety and security of inmates and staff;

(3) identify and include plans to address any deficiencies in the LMR and PA systems in use at Bureau of Prisons correctional facilities, including those related to—

- (A) an inadequate number of radios;
- (B) inoperable, outdated, or malfunctioning LMR or PA systems;

(C) areas of Bureau of Prisons correctional facilities that lack adequate reception for radio operation;

(D) radios that lack an emergency notification feature (also known as a “man down” function), which automatically sends an alert and transmits the location of that radio in the event the wearer is in a prone position; and

(E) any other deficits in the LMR or PA systems;

(4) include an assessment of operational and logistical considerations in implementing the plan required under subsection (a), including—

(A) a prioritization of facilities for needed upgrades, beginning with high security institutions;

(B) the personnel and training necessary to implement the changes; and

(C) ongoing repair and maintenance requirements; and

(5) include a 3-year strategic plan and cost projection for implementing the changes and upgrades to the security camera, LMR, and PA systems identified under paragraphs (1) through (4).

(c) **IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the plan is submitted under subsection (a)(2), and subject to appropriations, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall complete implementation of the submitted plan.

(d) **ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS.**—Beginning 1 year after the date on which the plan is submitted under subsection (a)(2), and each year thereafter until the end of the 3-year period described in subsection (c), the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on the progress of the implementation of the submitted plan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2899.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2899, the Prison Camera Reform Act of 2021, is bipartisan legislation that would require the Bureau of Prisons to evaluate the security camera, land-mobile radio, and public address systems in use at the BOP institutions, submit to Congress a report on any deficiencies, and implement a plan for needed improvements.

In 2016, the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General issued a report on deficiencies within BOP camera systems. The report found that camera deficiencies affected the ability to secure prosecutions of staff and incarcerated individuals in cases involving introduction of contraband in BOP facilities and adversely affected the availability of critical evidence to support administrative or disciplinary action against staff and incarcerated individuals.

Following that report, BOP took some action to improve the camera systems. However, their efforts have proved insufficient. A follow-up OIG memo in 2021 found that of the over 24,000 cameras across all BOP institutions, 86 percent, more than 20,000, are still analog or utilize old technology. Analog cameras produce poor-quality video, have limited coverage, and contribute to dangerous or unsafe areas within BOP institutions.

A fully digital camera system would produce improved video quality and coverage, enhanced search capabilities, and expand video storage periods of between 60 and 120 days. These capabilities would improve the BOP's threat assessments, monitoring, and contraband interdictions.

Improving BOP camera systems will create safer institutions for both correctional staff and incarcerated individuals.

Tragic cases of officer assaults against individuals while incarcerated often rely on camera footage as evidence, but outdated technology makes holding these officers accountable even more difficult.

This bill would require the BOP to investigate and address deficiencies in the camera and radio systems across all institutions. The BOP would also be required to implement all needed improvements within 3 years and to submit annual progress reports. The significant oversight mechanisms within this legislation will enable Congress to hold the BOP accountable and ensure that all deficiencies are addressed within the specified time period.

Security camera systems within prisons are critical for protecting the safety, well-being, and civil rights of both incarcerated people and prison employees.

This bipartisan measure would require the BOP to investigate and address these critical safety concerns and ensure that the improvements will, in fact, be made by including significant congressional oversight.

I thank Representatives KELLER, MCBATH, and TRONE, as well as Senator OSSOFF, for introducing this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 2899 requires the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to evaluate the security camera, radio, and public address systems in all BOP facilities and to submit a report to Congress with a plan to address the deficiencies.

Once the report is submitted, BOP has 3 years to implement the system upgrades as detailed in the report. The bill also requires the BOP to submit annual progress reports to Congress on the implementation of the submitted plan.

In 2016, the Office of the Inspector General at the Department of Justice published a report identifying major problems with the BOP's security cameras. These problems included security cameras with blind spots, cameras that were inoperable, cameras with poor video quality, and other serious deficiencies.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER).

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to speak in support of S. 2899, the Prison Camera Reform Act of 2021.

Our team, along with Congresswoman MCBATH, introduced the House companion to this bill, which requires the Bureau of Prisons to evaluate their security cameras and address deficiencies so that the Bureau of Prisons can keep correctional officers and inmates safe, oversee misconduct, and limit contraband.

As the chair of the Congressional Bureau of Prisons Reform Caucus, our team has facilitated several meetings with officials from the Bureau of Prisons and the Council of Prison Locals.

During these meetings, we heard from corrections officers about major deficiencies and needed upgrades within the BOP's security camera system. These deficiencies have made it harder for corrections officers to protect themselves and maintain secure facilities.

The Prison Camera Reform Act works to address these concerns, requiring the BOP to evaluate current conditions of equipment and formulate a plan on how they will address any deficiencies identified.

The outstanding men and women who work in our Nation's correctional facilities deal with dangerous situations

every day. They deserve the tools and support necessary to keep themselves and the inmates whom they protect safe from harm.

Shane Fausey and Steve Markle, with the Council of Prison Locals, have been tireless advocates for America's corrections officers and staff, and their sage counsel was vital in developing the Prison Camera Reform Act, which has been a top legislative priority for our BOP Reform Caucus.

While the BOP faces many challenges, passing the Prison Camera Reform Act would be a major step forward for the agency, corrections officers, and security of America's Federal prisons.

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Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the lack of adequate camera systems puts the safety of both incarcerated individuals and correctional officers and staff at risk.

The Prison Camera Reform Act of 2021 is bipartisan legislation that takes an important step toward making much-needed improvements.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, S. 2899, the "Prison Camera Reform Act of 2021," is bipartisan legislation that would require the Bureau of Prisons to evaluate the security camera, land-mobile radio, and public address systems in use at BOP institutions and submit to Congress a report on any deficiencies and a plan to implement needed improvements.

Security camera systems within prisons are critical for protecting the safety, wellbeing and civil rights of both incarcerated people and prison employees, including correctional officers, medical personnel and other staff.

Documented deficiencies in the federal Bureau of Prisons' security camera systems, however, limit the effectiveness of that protection.

A 2016, DOJ Office of Inspector General report identified major deficiencies and needed upgrades within the BOP's security camera system, including blind spots, inoperable cameras and limited functionality.

In a 2021 memo, OIG reaffirmed the 2016 report stating that "the OIG continues to see the same deficiencies in our investigations that we observed during our 2016 review. These deficiencies have negatively impacted the OIG's investigations and ability to secure prosecution of serious incidents in BOP institutions, including sexual assaults, civil rights violations, introduction of contraband, dereliction of duty, and even inmate deaths."

Although BOP has begun upgrading these systems at some institutions, serious shortcomings remain.

This bill would require BOP to investigate and address deficiencies in the camera and radio systems across all institutions.

BOP would also be required to implement all needed improvements within three years and submit annual progress reports. The significant oversight mechanisms within this legislation will enable Congress to hold BOP accountable and ensure all deficiencies are addressed within the specified time period.

"Dead spots" in video surveillance coverage inside FCI Dublin in California may have even contributed to the lack of accountability for the sexual abuse committed against incarcerated women in that facility.

Earlier this month, a former unit manager at FCI Dublin testified that the facility lacked sufficient security camera coverage and that many cameras are either not monitored or footage is deleted. The former warden is relying heavily on the lack of video footage in his defense against the sexual assault case.

This tragic story highlights the need to address camera deficiencies within BOP facilities as quickly as possible. The lack of adequate camera systems puts the safety of both incarcerated individuals and correctional officers and staff at risk.

This bill is a bipartisan common sense measure to require that BOP investigate and address these critical safety concerns and ensures that the improvements will be made by including adequate Congressional oversight.

I want to thank Representatives KELLER, MCBATH, and TRONE as well as Senator OSSOFF for introducing this important legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2899.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HELP FIND THE MISSING ACT

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 5230) to increase accessibility to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, to facilitate data sharing between such system and the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 5230

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as "Billy's Law" or the "Help Find the Missing Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, shall maintain the "National Missing and Unidentified Persons System" or "NamUs", consistent with the following:

(1) The NamUs shall be a national information clearinghouse and resource center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases across the United States administered by the National Institute of Justice and managed through an agreement with an eligible entity.

(2) The NamUs shall coordinate or provide—

(A) online database technology which serves as a national information clearinghouse to help expedite case associations and resolutions;

(B) various free-of-charge forensic services to aid in the identification of missing persons and unidentified remains;

(C) investigative support for criminal justice efforts to help missing and unidentified person case resolutions;

(D) technical assistance for family members of missing persons;

(E) assistance and training by coordinating State and local service providers in order to support individuals and families impacted by the loss or disappearance of a loved one; and

(F) training and outreach from NamUs subject matter experts, including assistance with planning and facilitating Missing Person Day events across the country.

(b) PERMISSIBLE USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The permissible use of funds awarded under this section for the implementation and maintenance of the agreement created in subparagraph (a)(1) include the use of funds—

(A) to hire additional personnel to provide case support and perform other core NamUs functions;

(B) to develop new technologies to facilitate timely data entry into the relevant data bases;

(C) to conduct contracting activities relevant to core NamUs services;

(D) to provide forensic analyses to support the identification of missing and unidentified persons, to include, but not limited to DNA typing, forensic odontology, fingerprint examination, and forensic anthropology;

(E) to train State, local, and Tribal law enforcement personnel and forensic medicine service providers to use NamUs resources and best practices for the investigation of missing and unidentified person cases;

(F) to assist States in providing information to the NCIC database, the NamUs database, or any future database system for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases;

(G) to report to law enforcement authorities in the jurisdiction in which the remains were found information on every deceased, unidentified person, regardless of age;

(H) to participate in Missing Person Days and other events to directly support family members of the missing with NamUs case entries and DNA collections;

(I) to provide assistance and training by coordinating State and local service providers in order to support individuals and families;

(J) to conduct data analytics and research projects for the purpose of enhancing knowledge, best practices, and training related to missing and unidentified person cases, as well as developing NamUs system enhancements;

(K) to create and maintain a secure, online, nationwide critical incident response tool for professionals that will connect law enforcement, medico-legal and emergency management professionals, as well as victims and families during a critical incident; and

(L) for other purposes consistent with the goals of this section.

(c) AMENDMENTS TO THE CRIME CONTROL ACT OF 1990 TO REQUIRE REPORTS OF MISSING CHILDREN TO NAMUS.—

(1) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Section 3701(a) of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 41307(a)) is amended by striking the period and inserting the following: "and, consistent with section 3 (including rules promulgated pursuant to section 3(c)) of the Help Find the Missing Act, shall also report such case, either directly or through authorization described in such section to transmit, enter, or share information on such case, to the NamUs databases."